Wildlife Protection

361. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the conservation of rhinos in Assam and schemes for control of poaching are among the tasks to be taken up under the programmes for protecting wildlife; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) Government of India is giving a lot of importance to conservation of rhinos in Assam and control of paching. Two Centrally Sponsored Schemes are being implemented in this regard. These are :—

(i) Conservation of Rhinos in Assam 100 per cent funding by Central Government.

(ii) Control of Poaching and Illegal Trade in Wildlife 50 per cent funding by the Central Government.

The amount sanctioned against the above schemes to Assam during the Seventh Five Year Plan so far are Rs. 307.80 lakhs and 3.16 lakhs respectively.

Growing Competition Abroad in the Field of Ready-made Garments

362. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the growing competition abroad in the field of ready-made garments; and

(b) if so, the names of the countries competing with Indian exporters of ready-made garments ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Hong Kong, Korea, Taiwan, Bangladesh, Philippines, Singapore Thailand, China and Pakistan are the main countries competing with India in export of garments.

Kudal Commission Report

363. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Kudal Commission has submitted its report to Government;

(b) if so, when it is proposed to be laid before Parliament; and

(c) what are the main recommendations/observations made by the Commission ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) Kudal Commission has submitted six Interim Reports and a Final Report. First three Interim Reports alongwith Memoranda of Action Taken have already been placed on the Table of Lok Sabha. The remaining reports alongwith Memoranda of Action Taken will be laid on the Table of both the Houses shortly.

Writing off of Agricultural Loans Extended to Farmers by Several State Governments

364. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that several State Governments have written off agricultural loans extended to farmers during the last few years;

(b) if so, what is the amount of agricultural loans written off during the last two years;

(c) whether the Reserve Bank of India has evolved any guidelines for granting or denying permission for writing off of such loans; and